

PEACE, Inc.'s Mission: Helping people in the community realize their potential for becoming self-sufficient

Community Connection

Vol. 6, No. 1 - January 2018

The Story of Us

Thank you for being part of our story!

In honor of our 50th anniversary, we are highlighting our program participants, partners, volunteers, employees, and other stakeholders as a way of sharing our story with the community. We would not have made it fifty years without our resilient clients, dedicated employees, or the loyal people and organizations who believe in our work. We hope that you will share these stories with the hashtag #PEACEIncSyr as a way to help us mark this milestone year.

Other ways you can join the celebration include attending an event, following PEACE, Inc. on social media, visiting a program, or making a donation. Find out more about these options by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

From the Archives: Mystery Photo



We recognize current board emeritus, Emma Johnston. Can you help us identify the others who are cutting the ribbon on a new PEACE, Inc. building? Please email photo@peace-caa.org with the information.

A letter from the Executive Director

As we begin our 50th year, I am struck by the things that have changed and those that have stayed the same. In 1968, the PEACE, Inc. staff of twenty offered three programs at two sites. Fifty years later, a staff of nearly four hundred operates nine programs at fifty different sites. While we have grown substantially we continue to help people living in poverty improve their self-confidence and build the skills they need to succeed. And we include the people we serve in the planning and decision-making process.

Another thing that has stayed the same is the robust support of our loyal volunteers, staff, board members, community partners and funders, who established PEACE, Inc. in 1968 and are still the foundation of our work fifty years later. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2018.

Every Kind Wish,

Joseph E. O'Hara



PEACE, Inc. is Mentoring

Dan's the Man

A Little Time is All it Takes

“Dan’s the man - and I really like hanging with him,” said Devin, a Little in the PEACE, Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Devin’s Big is Daniel Klaczany - or, in Devin’s words, “Dan the man.”

Nervous and venturing into something he had never done before, Dan first met Devin seven years ago. Devin was six years old.

“When I first met him, he was just a little tiny kid,” Dan said. “During our first meeting, I don’t think he said anything. I didn’t stay very long - and, then we made plans to do something. It was around Christmas time, so we planned to go tubing in Fayetteville. That ended up being a lot of fun. Eventually he warmed up to me. We had a great time. He started talking a lot more.”

Now, they spend time together at least twice a month and more often for certain activities.

“We like to watch SU play sports,” Dan said. “We go to the fair every year. In the summertime, he’ll come to my house and we can go fishing and swimming there. We go tubing over some Christmas breaks. I became a Big because I was just trying to give back to the community and I love kids. It was something I thought about doing and I finally mustered up the courage to do it. It worked out great. Devin is a great kid. Big Brothers Big Sisters has done a great job of arranging activities, supplying tickets, and stuff like that.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters improves the lives of school aged children through a variety of mentoring programs including school based, workplace and one-to-one mentoring. We’ll be celebrating PEACE, Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters throughout the month of January. Find out more at peace-caa.org.



Heroic Holiday Helpers

Every Bit Makes a Difference

Thanks to all those who helped PEACE, Inc. make the holidays a little happier for families in our community. Whether you donated turkeys, bought holiday gifts for a low-income family or volunteered at an event, you provided hope and assistance to someone in our community and we are grateful.

Photos: (left to right)

Big brother Big Sister Christmas Party - Silver Knight mascot dances with attendees; St. Joseph's Imaging Associates prep their gifts for seven families they sponsored through the PEACE, Inc. Adopt A Family Program; Sponsors and volunteers help the day of the Thanksgiving turkey give-a-way at the Emma L. Johnston Southside Family Resource Center.



PEACE, Inc. is Family Stability

Taxes with a Smile

Dedicated Volunteer Enjoys the Challenge

“When you’re retired, you can get pretty stale if you just stay home,” says Johnny Langan, volunteer for the PEACE, Inc. Free Tax Prep program.

For Langan, keeping active is mental and physical.

Ralph Lyke, Free Tax Prep Project Manager, said “Johnny Langan was our ‘Volunteer of the Year’ for our 2016 tax year. Each time he came to our site, our greeter-schedulers said, ‘Hey Johnny, you’re back again.’ Ralph continued, “Our [Free Tax Prep] customers like Johnny.”

Tax law is complex - that’s what Langan enjoys. “It makes you think, keeps you on your feet, you maintain your mental capacities,” says Langan. “As we age - we have to keep our mental capacity sharp. Plus, you get so many positive vibes from people you help. I go to training regularly and take a test every year to be a volunteer for [Free Tax Prep].”

Colleagues and getting clients to smile are pluses, too.

“You meet a lot of nice volunteers, colleagues you work with, many of them are retired CPAs, accountants, or work in the tax field - there’s a good mix, many my age and many quite a bit younger,” Langan says. “It’s a very serious thing to make sure clients get all the money they deserve, but I make sure to give them the smile, too. For all of us, all the [free tax prep] volunteers, part of what we do is try to put people at ease. I find a way to get a little smile on their face. Those are volunteers who keep coming back. They enjoy themselves and the people.”

Free Tax Prep trains and supports volunteers who prepare and e-file tax returns for people with low to moderate income so they can receive the largest refund possible and access all eligible tax credits. We’ll be celebrating Free Tax Prep during the month of February. Find out more at peace-caa.org/taxes.





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YEAH, THAT'S



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